

CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24. (Previously Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A surgical access device, comprising a seal assembly having a plurality of separate semicircular seal segments arranged in a conical shape, each seal segment having a circumference greater than 180 degrees and being adapted to seal against objects positioned through the seal.

26. (Previously Presented) The surgical access device of claim 25 wherein said seal assembly has an outer perimeter which is attached to a flotation means.

27. (Previously Presented) The surgical access device of claim 25 wherein said seal assembly includes a plurality of protectors disposed proximal to said elastomeric seal.

28. (Previously Presented) The surgical access device of claim 25 wherein said layered elastomeric members are disposed such that there is a substantially centrally located aperture in said seal assembly.

29. (Previously Presented) The surgical access device of claim 25, further comprising a cannula.

30. (Presently Amended) A trocar for performing a procedure on a patient, said trocar comprising:

- a. a hollow cannula having a distal end and a proximal end;
- b. a housing having a distal end attached to said proximal end of said cannula and a proximal end having a wall attached thereto, said wall having an aperture therethrough;
- c. a seal assembly disposed within said housing comprising a first substantially rigid ring, a second substantially rigid ring, and a plurality of semicircular elastomeric members compressed therebetween and forming a conical shape, the elastomeric members circumscribing an aperture in an interwoven pattern and cooperate to sufficiently seal against objects positioned within the aperture to maintain gas pressure in the abdominal cavity during endoscopic surgical procedures.

31. (Previously Presented) The trocar according to claim 30 wherein said elastomeric members comprise a proximal flange portion, and an inwardly extending portion extending distally therefrom, wherein said proximal flange portions are disposed between and are abutting against said rings.

32. (Previously Presented) The trocar according to claim 30 wherein said plurality of elastomeric layers are interwoven.

33. (Previously Presented) The trocar according to claim 30 wherein said plurality of elastomeric members have a non-planar shape prior to be assembled together.

34. (Presently Amended) A trocar for performing a procedure on a patient, said trocar comprising:

- a. a hollow cannula having a distal end and a proximal end;
- b. a housing having a distal end attached to said proximal end of said cannula and a proximal end having a wall attached thereto, said wall having an aperture therethrough;
- c. an instrument seal assembly disposed within said housing comprising a plurality layered elastomeric members arranged circumferentially about an aperture in an alternating over and under pattern and forming a conical shape, the plurality layered elastomeric members cooperating to provide a substantially gas-tight seal against instruments positioned through the aperture.

35. (Previously Presented) The seal of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric members are semicircular.

36. (Previously Presented) The seal of claim 35, wherein the elastomeric members have a circumference between 180 to 270 degrees.

37. (Previously Presented) The seal of claim 34, wherein the instrument seal assembly further provides zero-closure.

38. (Previously Presented) The seal of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric members are arranged in non-planar shape.

39. (Previously Presented) The seal of claim 34, wherein the instrument seal assembly comprises four elastomeric members.

40. (Previously Presented) The seal of claim 34, further comprising a first substantially rigid ring and a second substantially rigid ring, the elastomeric members being compressed therebetween.